



# The New York State Seal of Biliteracy

**March 10, 2018**  
**Shawwna Sweet, Mid-West RBERN**



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## [Eastridge Seal of Biliteracy Video](#)

# What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

- The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) is an award that formally recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English.



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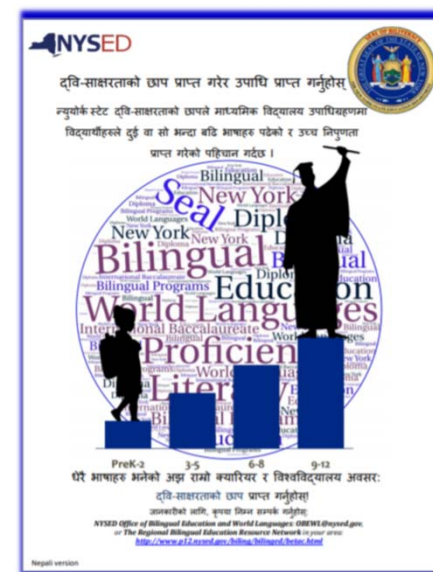
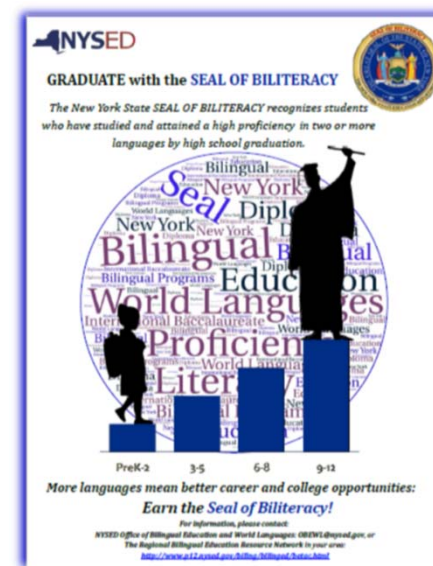
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# What is the Purpose of the Seal?

- ✓ Encourage the study of languages
- ✓ Identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers
- ✓ Provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission
- ✓ Prepare students with twenty-first century skills
- ✓ Recognize the value of foreign and native language instruction in schools
- ✓ Affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society



# Timeline of the Seal of Biliteracy in NYS

- The NYSSB was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Cuomo in July of 2012 .
- In January 2014, the NYS Board of Regents approved the implementation of a NYSSB pilot program.
- The NYSSB was formally approved by Board of Regents in April of 2016.
- The 2016-2017 school year was the NYSSB's first official year of statewide implementation.



# **Approved** Criteria for Earning the Seal

- Complete all requirements for graduating with a NYS Regents diploma
- Point system to demonstrate proficiency in English and another language (must earn 3 points in English and 3 in a world language)

**The NYS Board of Regents approved the above criteria for earning the Seal at their April 2016 meeting.**

# English Criteria – 3 point requirement

Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in <u>English</u>	Point Value
Score 75 or higher on the NYS Comprehensive English Regents Examination or 80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core), <u>or</u> ELLs can score 75 or above on two Regents exams other than English, without translation.	1
ELLs score at the Commanding level on two modalities on the NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test.	1
Complete all 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner.	1
Achieve the following scores on the examinations listed below: - 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) English Language or English Literature examination. - 80 or higher on all components of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).	1
Present a culminating project, scholarly essay or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's Seal of Biliteracy Committee to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in English.	2

# World Language Criteria – 3 point requirement

Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in a <u>World Language</u>	Point Value
Complete a Checkpoint C level World Language course, with a grade of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner for both the coursework <u>and</u> final examination consistent with Checkpoint C standards.	1
For students enrolled in a bilingual education program, complete all required Home Language Arts (HLA) coursework and district HLA exam with an 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner .	1
Provide transcripts from a school in a foreign country showing at least three years of instruction in the student's home/native language, with equivalent grade average of B or higher.	1
Score at a proficient level on an accredited Checkpoint C World Language assessment (see "Checkpoint C World Language Assessments and Minimum Scores" on the following slide).	1
Present a culminating project, scholarly essay, or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's Seal of Biliteracy Committee and that is aligned to the NYS Checkpoint C Learning Standards to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in the target language.	2

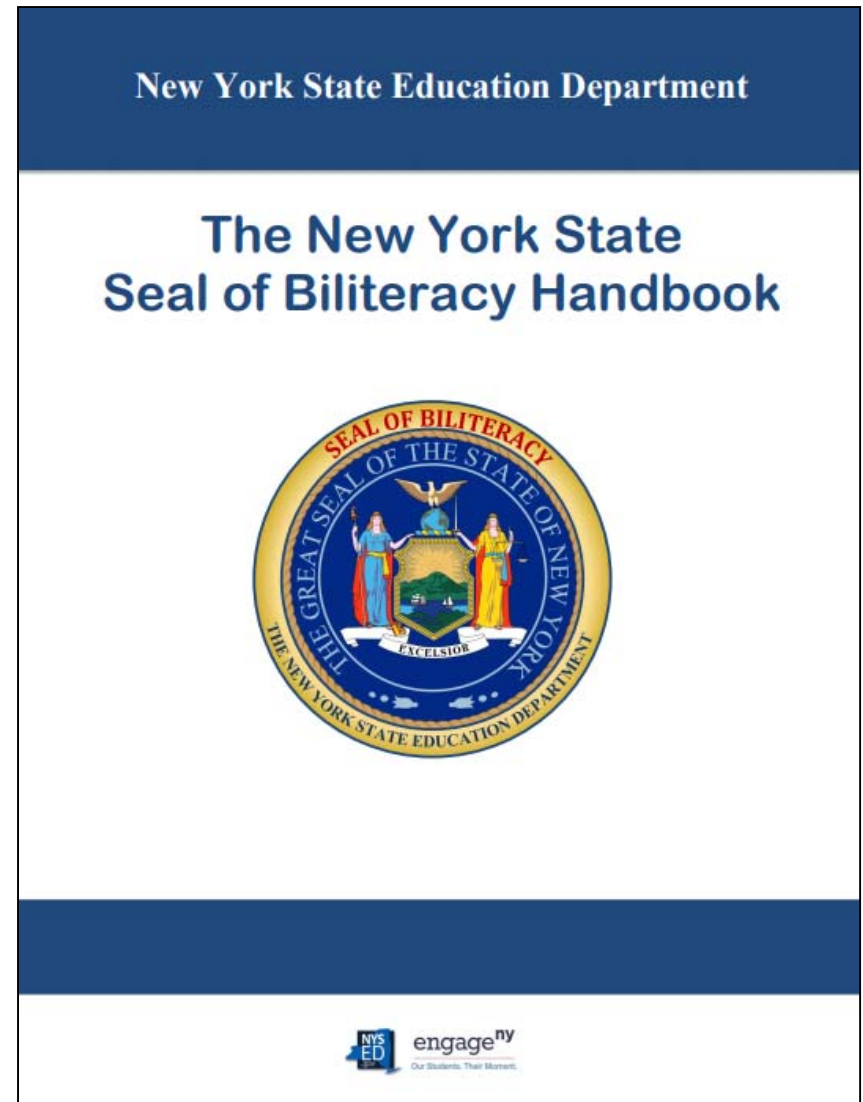


# Approved World Language Assessments

ASSESSMENT	MIN SCORE
Advanced Placement	4
International Baccalaureate	5
Standard-Based Measurement of Proficiency	6
Cervantes Institute of NYC Spanish (Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language)	B1
The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages	I-5
The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview Computer Test The ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test/Business Writing Test The ACTFL Reading Proficiency Test The ACTFL Listening Proficiency Test	<u>Intermediate High</u> Students should take exams in as many modalities (speaking, listening, reading and writing) as available in the target language to qualify for Checkpoint C credit.
The ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment	I-4
American Sign Language Proficiency Interview	Intermediate Plus

# NYSSB HANDBOOK:

[http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/handbook-for-the-seal-of-biliteracy-2017-18\\_0.pdf](http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/handbook-for-the-seal-of-biliteracy-2017-18_0.pdf)



# NYSSB Year 1: 2016-2017 School Year



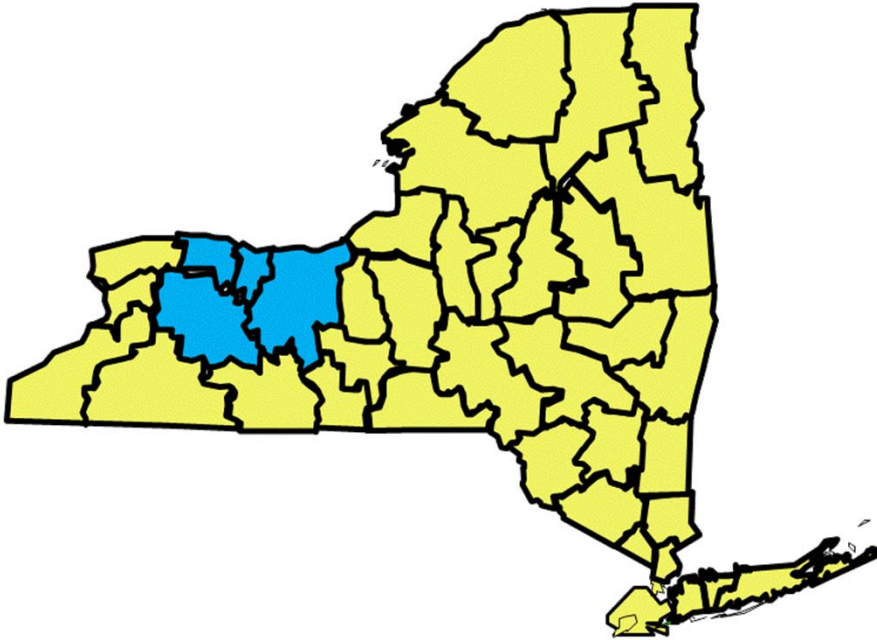
## Statewide Data:

- Over 1,400 students received the Seal of Biliteracy
- Over 55 districts and 80 schools implemented
- 20% of candidates were ELLs/Formal ELLs
- Students earned the seal for 27 world languages
- Students represented 38 countries

# NYSSB Year 1: 2016-2017 School Year

## Midwest Region:

Monroe #1 BOCES, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES  
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, Genesee Valley  
BOCES, Rochester City School District



- 9 districts implemented NYSSB
- 136 Students earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- 15 schools/districts participated in Midwest Regional Collaborative

# Seal of Biliteracy Regional Collaborative



## Purpose:

- Offer regional support for schools and districts implementing the NYSSB
- Consolidate resources and expertise in the region
- Provide increased efficiency and chances of successful implementation for local schools and districts



# Seal of Biliteracy Regional Collaborative

## Benefits

- Opportunity for shared planning, decision making and tools
- Direct connection to NYSED OBEWL, RBERN & NYSAFLT
- Networking and contacts within the region
- Technical assistance with paperwork and production of the seal

## Requirements

- Willingness to share your expertise and serve as a resource to the collaborative group
- Participation in 4-5 collaborative opportunities throughout the school year, in person or virtually



# Feedback from Regional Collaborative

## What did you value most about the NYSSB Midwest Regional Collaborative?

- Shared resources
- The chance to collaborate with colleagues
- Hearing what other districts are doing
- Going through the NYSSB implementation process together
- The ability to network with other schools to find out how they address challenges
- I really appreciated the help from other schools
- Leadership and organization from [RBERN].
- Opportunity to work collaboratively with regional districts



# Web Resources:

Midwest RBERN Webpage:

[www.monroe2boces.org/rbern](http://www.monroe2boces.org/rbern)

NYSED Office of Bilingual Education and  
World Languages (OBEWL) Webpage:

<http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed/schools/new-york-state-seal-biliteracy-nyssb>

Email: [OBEWL@NYSED.GOV](mailto:OBEWL@NYSED.GOV)



# For more information, your local contact is:

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